

## **Decision-Making Model for Determining RN/LPN Scope of Practice**

The mission of the Nebraska Board of Nursing is to assure safe and competent practice to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Nebraska.

In the practice of nursing, professional issues and practice questions arise that require the nurse to apply education, experience and professional judgment and to be legally responsible and accountable for the outcomes(s). The role of the Board of Nursing is to establish minimum standards for education, licensure and practice and to provide information to practicing nurses. The Licensure Unit ensures that standards have been met, prior to issuance of a license; however, the Licensing Unit cannot and should not make decisions for its licensees.

In an effort to ensure safe, competent nursing services to the public, as well as to educate and provide direction to nurses to facilitate clinical decision-making in determining legal scope of practice, the Nebraska Board of Nursing adopted a Decision-Making Model for Determining RN/LPN Scope of Practice on April 14, 2016. The following model may be utilized in conjunction with applicable Nebraska nursing laws and regulations in a given practice situation.

The decision to provide any nursing care should be based upon self-assessment of competency, following an assessment of the client and environment. A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills and communication of the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

### Advisory Opinions

The Nebraska Board of Nursing may choose to issue advisory opinions in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 (2). As such, advisory opinions are for informational purposes only and are non-binding. The advisory opinions may define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing. Nursing practice, however, is constantly evolving and advisory opinions can become outdated. Ultimately, Nebraska law and Board regulations require the licensee to provide nursing care services within parameters consistent with education, skills, experience, and current competence. Application of the Decision-Making Model is encouraged.

